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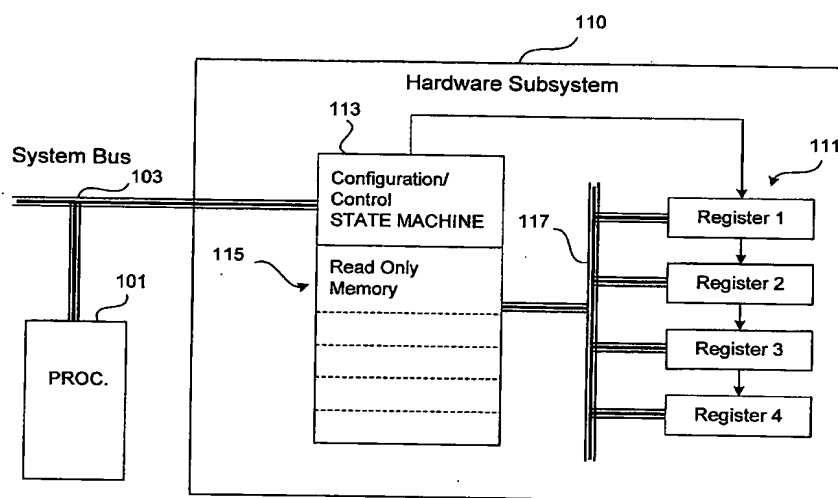
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(54) Title: **ENCAPSULATED HARDWARE CONFIGURATION/CONTROL**



(57) Abstract: A technique is provided for configuring and controlling complex hardware subsystems that relieves the burden placed on the system programmer and that is, by comparison to present methods, safe and error-free. In accordance with one aspect of the invention, configuration of a hardware subsystem (110) is accomplished by providing in hardware a configuration controller including a controller portion (113) and a storage portion (115) storing configuration parameters. The configuration controller (113) is activated, for example in response to a Configuration/Control ID, and thereupon performs configuration of the hardware subsystem (110), including storing at least one configuration parameter in a register (111) of the hardware subsystem. Typically, the configuration controller hardware (113) and storage (115) are embedded within the hardware subsystem to be configured or controlled. The configuration/control functionality is thus "encapsulated" within the hardware subsystem (110) itself such that the system programmer need not be concerned with details.



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